

REMARKS

The present application was filed on January 26, 2004 with claims 1-3. Claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice and claims 1 and 3 remain pending. Claim 1 is an independent claim.

In the outstanding Office Action dated April 24, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,485,172 to Sawachika et al. (hereinafter "Sawachika").

With regard to the rejection of claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sawachika, Applicants respectfully assert that Sawachika fails to teach or suggest each and every element respectively recited in claims 1 and 3.

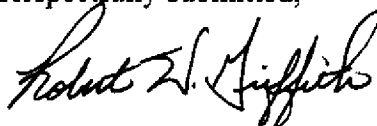
Amended independent claim 1 recites a compact head mounted virtual image display unit that comprises a microdisplay and an optical system for directing an image signal for viewing by a user. The image signal is generated in accordance with the microdisplay. The unit further comprises an optical system mounting structure for supporting the optical system within the field of view of only a single eye of the user, a housing to substantially contain at least the optical system, and a slidable light shield integrated within the housing and having an open position and a closed position. The light shield is slidable along a length of an exterior wall of the housing and slidably positioned with respect to the optical system such that, in the open position, the image signal is viewed by the user with background light entering the optical system, and in the closed position, the image signal is viewed by the user with background light at least partially blocked from entering the optical system. Support for the amendments can be found on page 4, lines 7-17 of the Specification.

Sawachika discloses an automatic image regulating arrangement for a head-mounted image display device that includes a sensor for detected conditions, but fails to disclose a compact head mounted virtual display unit with an optical system in the field of view of only a single eye of the user, as recited in amended independent claim 1. Further, Sawachika fails to disclose a slidable light shield integrated within the housing and slidable along a length of an exterior wall of the housing as recited in amended independent claim 1. Dependent claim 3 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency on independent claim 1, and also recites patentable subject matter in its own right.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above, Applicant believes that claims 1 and 3 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests withdrawal of the §102(b) rejections.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Griffith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" and last name "Griffith" clearly distinguishable.

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